

KANSAS CITY.

Is in Missouri, just across the line dividing that State from Kansas. It is situated on a bluff on the *south* bank of the Missouri, about a mile below the mouth of the Kansas river. At the mouth of the Kansas the Missouri makes a great bend, changing its course from nearly south to almost due east. It is a magnificent site for a city, whether regarded in the light of its immediate location or of its commercial possibilities as a great railroad centre. It is now the western terminus of the Missouri Pacific road, and the eastern terminus of the main line of the Union Pacific, Eastern Division. Soon it will have a branch road to Cameron, on the Hannibal and St. Joseph road. Ere long a branch of the North Missouri Railroad—which begins at St. Louis, crosses the Missouri at St. Charles, and thence runs up through the northern part of the State—will be made to Kansas City. Both these important branch roads are to cross the Missouri at Kansas City on the same bridge.

In addition to all these, Kansas City is to be one of the termini of the great railroad which is soon to be made from several points in Kansas to Galveston on the Gulf of Mexico, which is but little over six hundred miles distant, through one of the most beautiful and fertile regions on the continent. The central stem of this road will reach the Union Pacific at Lawrence; the eastern at Kansas City, and probably the western will terminate at Junction City, at the mouth of the Republican river, three miles beyond Fort Riley. The people of the ambitious little city last named talk as if their branch was a sure thing. That to Lawrence is sure, for they are pushing it on vigorously, and expect to have twenty-four miles of it completed and in operation by January next. As for the branch to Kansas City there seems to be no doubt. All these roads run through very rich agricultural lands, and all traverse good coal-fields before they come together at or near the southern border of the State.

Such are the prospective advantages of Kansas City. To what it may grow remains to be seen. Should its future be directed by men of large, liberal and enlightened views, I cannot see how it can fail to become one of the chief cities of this vast and magnificent region. But should its destiny fall into the hands of narrow-minded, greedy and unscrupulous adventurers, and should a rowdy element collect there and give it a bad moral tone, then Leavenworth—which has very nearly equal geographical advantages, and superior local advantages—will maintain its position as the chief city of this important centre. The struggle for the ascendancy between these two cities will